

MEETING MINUTES

Kentucky Association of Conservation Districts

September 9, 2014

9:30 AM

Two Hundred and Ninetieth Meeting

In Attendance: David Rowlett, President; Shane Wells, Vice-President; Allan Bryant, Secretary-Treasurer; Bobbie Wilson; David Cowherd; Kevin Jeffries; Ted Jessup; Lenville Martin; Assistant State Conservationist Reed Cripps, NRCS; Deputy Commissioner Sandy Gruzesky, DNR; and Director Leah MacSwords, DOF.

Also in Attendance: Division of Conservation employees Kim Richardson, Director; Johnna McHugh, Assistant Director; and Jeffrey Reed.

Quorum was met.

Meeting Called to Order – at 9:32 am with KACD President David Rowlett extending a welcome to new board members Ted Jessup, Lenville Martin and Gilbert Edgington (not in attendance).

KACD Minutes of the Last Meeting - July, 2014 - Mr. Allan Bryant requested his name be replaced by David Rowlett's in all five (5) Resolutions listed under Section 11 in the July, 2014 minutes. Also to be corrected, Resolution 5 passed. Motion to approve the minutes with corrections was made by Mr. Kevin Jeffries, motioned seconded by Mr. Allan Bryant. **Motion carried.**

Treasurer's Report - Treasurer Allan Bryant presented the KACD Treasurer's Report with copies given. He stated that the KACD Convention was a great success earning a profit of \$27,175.14 and that the Association was now free and clear with the Marriott and is under no further obligation to them. Special thanks were given to Ms. Terri Shaw for putting the financial report together and to Ms. Kim Richardson and Ms. Johnna McHugh for their behind the scenes efforts in making the convention such a great success. Mr. Bryant made the motion to approve the report as presented, motion seconded by Mr. David Cowherd. **Motion carried.**

KACD Correspondence - President David Rowlett presented KACD Correspondence. A letter was received from Mr. Keith Rogers of the Kentucky 4H Foundation on behalf of the Board of Directors in appreciation of the \$250 contribution to their annual fund.

President Rowlett and DOC Director Kim Richardson recently met with DNR Commissioner Steve Hohmann and DNR Deputy Commissioner Sandy Gruzesky at which time they were given DNR's full support and encouraged to continue with their current efforts.

NACD Director's Report - Mr. Kevin Jeffries presented the NACD Director's Report. Mr. Jeffries requested a donation of \$250 to purchase a product "unique to Kentucky" to be used in the NACD Live Auction to be held at the national convention in February. Funds raised from the auction are used for legislative activities. Mr. Allan Bryant made a motion to approve, motion seconded by Mr. David Cowherd. **Motion carried.**

Mr. Jeffries provided the board with a draft of an eight (8) page letter written by the NACD to be presented to the EPA concerning the proposed regulation, HR 4078, expanding the Waters of the U.S. The letter should be finalized later this week. The comment period has been extended by the EPA regarding these proposals until October. There is concern if these regulations pass, as currently presented, then owners/operators will be greatly affected.

Registration is now open for the NACD Convention to be held in New Orleans in February, 2015.

Mr. Kevin Jeffries stated that Mr. Jeff Rice would like to be considered as a participant in the Share Fair. The board approved.

Any proposed changes to the NACD Policies and By-Laws need to be submitted by the end of November. Mr. Jeffries will get an updated copy of the By-Laws to DOC Director Kim Richardson for distribution.

A well-attended and productive Soil Health National Board Meeting was held in July in Indianapolis, IN. Mr. Kevin Jeffries was elected to be Regional Chairman by the SE NACD. The position is responsible for ten (10) states. President Rowlett extended his congratulations to Mr. Jeffries for his newly elected appointment.

KACD Auxiliary Report - Ms. Betty Barrick was not in attendance due to an illness. Ms. Kim Richardson presented the KACD Auxiliary Report on her behalf. Scholarship information is going out to the conservation district offices and being placed on the DOC website. Please encourage counties to put this information on their websites and in newspapers, etc. Applicant numbers have been down lately for these scholarships and the non-traditional scholarship has not had an application in a number of years.

The 2015 barn themed quilt blocks have been arriving. Information about the blocks will be sent out to those counties who were not represented at the KACD in July.

Each county should be considering what their county will be bringing to next year's auction.

Before next meeting, if necessary, an invitation will be extended to Jenny Tucker, Vice-President of the Auxiliary, to represent Ms. Barrick.

2014 SE NACD and KACD State Convention Recap - President David Rowlett began by discussing the pluses and minuses of the 2014 Convention. In commenting on the plus side President Rowlett reiterated that we are now free of all debt with the Marriott. Mr. Ted Jessup stated that the only negative feedback he received was concerning the significant increase in meal prices for spouses.

Concerning the shortening of the 2015 Convention Ms. Kim Richardson stated that at this point no final decisions have been reached in determining what would be left off of the schedule. Ms. Richardson said that the Convention would end on Tuesday with a luncheon/awards ceremony. She went on to say that more would be needed for Sunday to make this work. President Rowlett suggested making the Monday night awards ceremony a bigger event.

Ms. Kim Richardson noted that meal prices would be going down now that The Holiday Inn University Plaza would be taking care of the food services.

President Rowlett said the suggestion had been made for a tour of Lee Robey's dairy farm in Logan County. Mr. Kevin Jeffries expressed concern for the distance from the Convention Center. It was estimated that it would entail one (1) hour of drive time. Ms. Kim Richardson estimated that a bus, which seats fifty (50) passengers, could be secured for approximately \$1,100.

Ms. Richardson said that she would have a layout of entertainment choices at the November meeting.

The 2015 KACD Convention will be held July 19-21, 2015 at the Holiday Inn University Plaza in Bowling Green. It is not too early to begin working on the upcoming convention. The Bowling Green supervisors have already lined up a Judge for the opening remarks along with a color guard. President Rowlett proposed that compensation be provided to the color guard to cover travel expenses. A vote was not taken at this time. President Rowlett also requested compensation in the amount of \$200 for the color guard from Carroll County High School which served the convention twice in Louisville. Mr. Joe Dickerson, employee of the school district, incurred some out-of-pocket expenses to provide us with this service. Mr. Kevin Jeffries made the motion to approve, motion seconded by Mr. Shane Wells. **Motion carried.**

President Rowlett and DOF Director Leah MacSwords commended Ms. Kim Richardson and KACD staff for having a successful SE NACD and KACD Convention and "coming out in the black." Director MacSwords pointed out the difficulty of having both a regional and state convention jointly. President Rowlett suggested that to keep "surprises to a minimum" with regards to the upcoming convention, we need to run everything by Ms. Richardson first.

President Rowlett mentioned the high rate, average \$3500, being asked for speaker fees. Ms. Johnna McHugh suggested using a Chautauqua speaker. They require a six (6) to eight (8) week advance notice for scheduling and Arts and Humanities will pay a portion of the speaking fee. Ms. Kim Richardson will provide more details at the November meeting.

President Rowlett asked Mr. Allan Bryant to review the motions of the Resolution Committee which met September 8, 2014. Copies of the report were given to those in attendance.

Resolution 1 requested that a clearer definition of the base plants listed under "Invasive Species Sales, Growth, and Control in KY" be given. Mr. Ronald McCormick moved to amend the resolution by adding SB 170, HB 434 and replace the word "invasive" with "problematic and invasive." **Resolution was tabled.** This will have to go back to Campbell County, who submitted the resolution, to provide a more specific and detailed list. If the resolution were to pass then it would be up to the board's discretion as to what species to prohibit the sale thereof.

Resolution 2 requested that "the original author supervisor of the resolution be present at all meetings that require a vote to explain the purpose, intent, and/or expected outcome of the proposed resolution and to answer any inquiries." An amendment was presented to add the wording "or appointed representative." **Resolution passed.**

Resolution 3 requested that if a supervisor missed five (5) out of twelve (12) meetings then they should resign their position. **Resolution did not pass.** The vote was extremely close: twenty-four (24) in favor with twenty-five (25) against. There simply were not enough supervisors to vote.

Resolution 4 requested more funding to be budgeted for the travel expenses of field representatives to enable them to attend additional district meetings. **Resolution passed.**

Resolution 5 requested that the KACD in conjunction with DOC and SWCC develop an educational fact sheet to be used by local boards, to help with presentations to be made in fiscal court, explaining KRS 262.200 (millage tax funding). In addition, DOC will develop a ten (10) minute training on this topic. **Resolution passed.**

President Rowlett suggested that the March meeting be held in Bowling Green. This will be discussed further at a later meeting.

NACD Meeting – New Orleans, LA – February 1-4, 2015 - President Rowlett asked that we encourage local boards to pay the NACD registration fees for their attendees. First time attendees to the National Convention will have their registration fee provided by the NACD.

Mr. Kevin Jeffries reported that the early registration fee, before December 19th, would be \$510 with a spouse registration fee of \$205. After December 19th registration will increase to \$565 with the spouse registration remaining at \$205. It was estimated that personal expenses for hotel accommodations and meals would be around \$250 per night.

President Rowlett said that it will need to be decided by November who we are sending to the NACD. He also pointed out that this decision must be made in consideration with the budget needs of who will be sent to the more important Washington meeting.

Travel Policy Review – President Rowlett stated he had no problems with the policy as it currently appears.

2016 State Cost Share Money – DOC Director Kim Richardson reported that \$6 million has been allotted this year for the State Cost Share program with \$0 slated for 2016. The Attorney General, along with the Governor, has recently announced that \$58 million will be going back into the tobacco fund. Half of this money has been allotted to Health and Family Services with the other half, approximately \$24 million, going back into Agriculture. Ms. Richardson stated that \$9 million was a reasonable request to make to help insure we keep our Cost Share Program running. Ms. Richardson informed the board that the 2015 General Assembly has the discretion as to how this money will be allocated. President Rowlett stated he would promptly get an information sheet out to the local districts. Ms. Richardson suggested that a good time to contact your local legislator would be once in October and then again in late November or early December. KACD will host two (2) conference calls to talk to districts about the importance of contacting their legislators. These conference calls will be scheduled for Tuesday the 18th and Thursday the 20th of November at 8:00 pm eastern and 7:00 pm central time.

Leopold Award - President Rowlett reported that the KACD has been asked by the Agricultural Council to take up sponsorship of the Leopold Award for Kentucky. President Rowlett stated that our responsibilities would entail accepting applications and selecting a winner. However, upon further discussion of the money that may be involved, it was suggested that the board contact Dave Nigh to appear at the next meeting to explain the program better and answer any questions the board may have.

Division of Conservation Report – DOC Director Kim Richardson presented the report.

DOC Budget Update - There is a shortfall of money affecting all of State Government. The only solution to make DOC's budget work under these conditions was to take administrative funds from the Cost-Share Program. Up to 5 percent of the funds may be used for this purpose. This is the first time this has ever been done and Ms. Richardson assured the board that only what is needed would be taken. There will be no new hires. We are very possibly looking at more budget cuts in the very near future.

Envirothon - The Envirothon Committee will meet in October. Ms. Richardson commended President Rowlett for securing a gift of \$2,500 from Dow Corning. An award was presented to Dow Corning by President Rowlett who was informed by company representatives that they will continue providing this gift annually.

DOC has put in a proposal for the Regional Conservational Partnership Program which deals with nutrient management. This will be a joint effort with the University of Kentucky, Division of Water, the Kentucky Beef Network and the Kentucky Dairy Development Council. A special thanks to Dr. Amanda Gumbert for her work on this proposal.

Half of the Direct Aid money is awaiting distribution per SWCC guidelines. The Commission will meet September 15, 2014 to discuss this and to look at a better, more transparent, way of awarding direct aid funds. This will be based on a "point's process" so once this is in place applications will no longer be required from the districts but rather funds will be based on certain criteria being met by each district.

Agency Comment

Natural Resources Conservation Service - Mr. Reed Cripps, Assistant State Conservationist, presented the report on behalf of Karen Woodrich, State Conservationist.

Conservation Compliance - Crop Insurance will now be tied in with compliance. The regulations for this have not yet been written but should be coming sometime in October. Some of the changes will include: the operator will be held accountable for non-compliances; if one field is non-compliant then all of the owner's operations are out of compliance; crop insurance payments will not be exempt anymore; and if a land owner is found non-compliant then they will be given two (2) years to get back into compliance before losing their insurance. Ms. Karen Woodrich is working closely with their National Headquarters concerning these new regulations and will give an update as new information is made available.

Kentucky Department For Natural Resources - Deputy Commissioner Sandy Gruzesky presented the report. The Deputy Commissioner and DOC Director Kim Richardson have been working with Jessica Fox, EPRI, on the Water Quality Trading Project. The project is currently limited to the following six (6) counties: Boone, Bracken, Carter, Greenup, Lewis and Mason but it is hopeful that this project will soon be broadened to cover the entire state.

From the newsletter sent out by the Association of Clean Water Agencies: The EPA IG Office is advising to look closely at nutrient reductions. The Deputy Commissioner and Ms. Kim Richardson are currently working with the Kentucky Division of Water on the best method of tracking reductions.

Farm Service Agency – John McCauley, State FSA Director was not in attendance. President Rowlett informed the board that his mother had passed away last week and thought it would be a nice gesture for individual board members to send a note of condolence.

Kentucky Department of Agriculture - Director Steve Kelly was not in attendance.

Division of Forestry - Director Leah MacSwords presented the report. A memo has been sent to the Conservation Districts to remind them that it is time to be sending in their seedling orders. Seedling order information may be obtained on line and DOF plans on having paper copies for orders in the district offices. Orders up to 5,000 seedlings will be matched this year. This will

go a long way to fulfilling Governor Beshear's 20/20 Vision for Reforestation. Some additional seedlings have been set aside to be sent to the five (5) counties recently hit with tornadoes. The harvest will get underway after the first freeze, usually sometime in December. Ms. MacSwords is hopeful to get 2 to 3 million seedlings back in production. Now that the new cooler in Morgan County is up and running the entire crop may be harvested in six (6) weeks or less.

KACDE – Ms. Leslie Fourqurean was not in attendance.

Next Board Meeting - Due to a state holiday **the next board meeting will be held Thursday November 13th at 9:30 AM.**
Motion to approve this date change was made by Mr. David Cowherd, motion seconded by Mr. Ted Jessup. **Motion carried.**

Adjournment - A motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Kevin Jeffries, motion seconded by Mr. Shane Wells. **Motion carried,**
meeting adjourned at 11:26 AM.